

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /082 W

----- 025941

R 070958Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6911

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 33146

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, VN, TH

SUBJ: RTG SENDS NOTE TO SRV ON OPENING EMBASSY

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH DCM AT FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECEPTION DEC 6 TO CELEBRATE KING'S BIRTHDAY, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL, SAID THAT ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO (PRESUMABLY ABOUT NOV 15) RTG HAD SENT A NOTE TO THE SRV SUGGESTING RECIPROCAL OPENING OF EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK AND HANOI.

2. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR BAUER (WHO HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN HANOI DURING ASSIGNMENTS TO THE OLD ICC) JOINED CONVERSATION AT THIS POINT AND COMME TED THAT HE DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE A FAVORABLE SRV RESPONSE TO THE THAI NOTE, IF THERE WAS ANY RESPONSE AT ALL. HOWEVER, BAUER URGED KRIANGSAK TO KEEP TRYING TO OPEN DIRECT CHANNELS TO THE SRV, WITH THE OBJECT OF AT LEAST ESTABLISHING A RECORD THAT THE RTG HAD DONE ALL IN ITS POWER TO IMPLEMENT THE THAI-VIETNAMESE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF AUG 6. GENERAL KRIANGSAK SAID THAT THE RTG WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORT ALONG THIS LINE.

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3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE RTG, DESPITE ITS STRONGLY

ANTI-COMMUNIST ORIENTATION, CONTINUES TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO NORMALIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.
THIS EFFORT IS IN THE FACE OF CONTINUING, HARSH CRITICISM OF THE
RTG BY RADIO HANOI AND RADIO VIENTIANE. THE RTG HAS RARELY
TAKEN PUBLIC NOTE OF THESE CRITICISMS, CLEARLY IN THE INTEREST OF
NOT EMBARRASSING ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THAI RELATIONS WITH
LAOS AND VIET-NAM.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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